

Message Text

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44

ORIGIN AF-18

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 177011

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINR, SF

SUBJECT:PROPOSED ATTACHE CORPS VISIT TO CAPRIVI STRIP

1. AFTER DISCUSSION BETWEEN ASSISTANT SECRETARY AND
AMBASSADOR HURD OF PROBLEMS PROPOSED VISIT POSES FOR
US AND HOW BEST TO HANDLE THEM, HAS BEEN DECIDED CHARGE
SHOULD APPROACH BRITISH AMBASSADOR AND EXPRESS OUR
VIEWS AND MISGIVINGS ALONG FOLLOWING LINES:

A. IN LIGHT OF CONSTANT FEAR ON OTHER SIDE OF ZAMBEZI
THAT SA MAY STAGE RETALIATORY STRIKES FROM CAPRIVI, WE
ARE CONCERNED THAT OUR PARTICIPATION IN ATTACHE VISIT
MIGHT BE INTERPRETED AS SUPPORTING SOUTH AFRICAN ACTIONS
IN THE AREA.

B. TIMING IS ESPECIALLY INAPPROPRIATE SINCE UNGA IS
PREPARING TO MEET, SC WILL BE DISCUSSING NAMIBIAN PROBLEM
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IN SEPTEMBER AND SA ARMY HAS ONLY RECENTLY ASSUMED

RESPONSIBILITY FOR OPERATIONS IN CAPRIVI.

C. WE THEREFORE WONDER WHETHER UK WOULD CONSIDER DECLIN-
ING INVITATION, AS U.S. INTENDS, IN HOPE THAT IF NEITHER
U.S. OR UK INTENDS PARTICIPATE SA MIGHT CANCEL VISIT.

2. FOR LONDON: EMBASSY OFFICER MAY WISH RAISE MATTER
WITH FCO SINCE WE ASSUME BRITISH AMBASSADOR WILL BE
ASKING FOR INSTRUCTIONS. PROBLEM IS OUR RESPONSE TO
SOUTH AFRICAN PLANS TO INVITE ALL ACCREDITED MILITARY
ATTACHES TO VISIT CAPRIVI IN LATE SEPTEMBER OR EARLY
OCTOBER. RUSH

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